

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08
FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 L-03
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SNM-05 DEAE-00 /085 W
-----122311 170412Z /17

P R 162011Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 977
INFO CCGD SEVEN MIAMI FLA
SECDEF WASHDC
COMDT COGARD WASHDC
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1061

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MARR, MPOL, SNAR, BF, CU, US
SUBJ: US-CUBAN COAST GUARD TALKS

REF: STATE 111753 (NOTAL)

1. ON 12 MAY NLO ACCOMPANIED CAPTAIN BOB COOK, COAST GUARD MIAMI, TO MEETING AT CABINET OFFICE WITH CABINET PERMSEC/MID DEF PERMSEC RODNEY BAIN AND MIN EX AFF PERMSEC ORIS RUSSELL.
2. MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL, OPEN AND FRIENDLY. CAPTAIN COOK AND NLO CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THE NATURE OF USCG TALKS WITH CUBANS AND THE CURRENT OPERATING SCENARIO. THIS INFORMATION WAS WELL RECEIVED. GCOB WAS ASSURED THAT NOTHING WAS AGREED, ORALLY OR IN WRITING, ABOUT CUBANS POLICING ADDITIONAL WATERS NORTH OF CUBA OR ANYWHERE ELSE.
3. BAIN AND RUSSELL STATED THAT GCOB WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNILATERAL ACTION TAKEN BY CUBA LAST

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YEAR WHEREBY CUBA DECLARED THE EXISTING FLIGHT INFORMATION ZONE TO BE A CUBAN AIR DEFENSE ZONE, SINCE THAT ZONE EXTENDED OVER BAHAMIAN TERRITORY. GCOB HAS PROTESTED DIPLOMATICALLY, BUT AS YET HAS HAD NO RESPONSE FROM CUBA. BAIN AND RUSSELL FURTHER STATED THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE CUBANS WAS THAT YOU GOT ABOUT HALF THE TRUTH HALF THE TIME AND THAT THEY

REALLY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN ANY AGREEMENT WITH CUBANS WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM AN EXCUSE FOR GREATER OR MORE FREQUENT INCURSIONS INTO BAHAMIAN TERRITORY OR WATERS, OR THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE THEIR EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS WITH USCG.

4. MR. BAIN SAID THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CAPTAIN COOK WOULD VERY MUCH ASSIST GCOB IN DECIDING HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CUBANS AND AGREED TO KEEP USG INFORMED. MR. BAIN ALSO STATED THAT GCOB CURRENTLY PLANS TO HAVE THE BAHAMIAN DEFENSE FORCE (BDF) OPERATIONAL WITH NINE PATROL CRAFT BY OCTOBER AND THAT BDF WOULD BE REMANNING THE VARIOUS LIGHTHOUSE STATIONS (NOW AUTOMATED) IN THE BAHAMAS TO PROVIDE GCOB WITH A GREATER SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY IN THE OUT ISLANDS AND CAYS. MR. BAIN SAID THAT USG AND GCOB WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW THE PRESENT PROCEDURES UNDER WHICH USCG OPERATES IN THE BAHAMAS AT THAT TIME IN ORDER TO INSURE COMPATIBILITY OF FORCES AND OPERATIONS TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE EFFORTS OF BOTH USCG AND BDF. NLO AND CAPTAIN COOK AGREED AND THE MEETING ENDED ON A CORDIAL NOTE.
SCHWARTZ

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Message Attributes

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